(e) what steps are proposed to review the entire export strategy to prevent India from being affected by external recessions and trade cycles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Exports during 2007-08 are likely to reach a level of US $ 152-155 billion as against a target of US$ 160 billion set for the year.

(c) As per the preliminary estimates, during 2007-08 (April-January), there was a negative growth, in US $ terms, in the export of a number of items including RMG (Cotton including accessories); Primary & Semi-finished Iron & Steel; Plastic & Linoleum; Non-ferrous Metals; Marine Products; Sports Goods; Handicrafts; Carpets etc. Slow growth was also recorded in the exports of Cotton Yarn Fabrics Made-up etc. and Electronic Goods.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) It is the endeavour of the Government to promote exports in line with India's comparative advantage and the emerging situation in the domestic as well as international markets. Accordingly, the developments in the domestic and overseas markets are monitored on regular basis and various measures are announced under the Foreign Trade Policy from time to time.

Export of key natural resources

2028. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's decision to export key natural resources is leading to the limitations of productivity expansion in the public sector companies;

(b) the details of key natural resources exported to various countries in the last four years; and

(c) the details of the supply orders pending from various public sector undertakings with reference to key minerals such as iron, chromate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Information being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tax exemption to SEZ

2029. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of tax exemption granted to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) so far, year-wise; and

(b) the circumstances under which such exemptions are being granted whereas area based tax concessions to six districts of North Bengal has been denied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The quantum of exemptions is dependent on the investments, exports and profits generated there from by the Developers and units, which cannot be estimated at this stage.

(b) Fiscal incentives as envisaged under the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Act, 2005, are available to all the States and Union Territories, including West Bengal.

Effect of rupee appreciation on tea exports

2030. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether tea exports had been further hit by the rupee appreciation;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years;

(c) the revenue generated from such exports; and

(d) the steps being taken to boost tea exports from the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the current year export of tea declined mainly due to appreciation of Rupee vis-a-vis dollar and poor exports to countries like Iraq (due to payment problem), Pakistan, Kenya and United Kingdom etc. The details of exports of tea from India during the last three years and the revenue generated from exports are furnished below—

Year	Financial Year-wise	
	Qty. (M. Kgs.)	Value (Rs. Crs.)
2004-05	205.81	1924.71
2005-06	196.67	1793.58
2006-07	218.15	2045.72
2007-08 (Apr-December)*	112.34	1111.54
2006-07 (Apr-December)	173.78	1629.18
(+) or (-) over last year	*(-) 61.44*	*(-) 517.64*

*Estimated and subject to revision

(d) The Tea Board/Govt. are taking various measures to boost the export of tea which include conducting promotional activities in the foreign markets and lending promotional support to Indian tea exporters in their marketing efforts. These activities include: participation in international and/or specialized fairs and exhibitions; field sampling at speciality stores and/or principal markets; media publicity- buyer-seller meets; public relation activities to establish closer link between importers and exporters; and exchange of tea delegations between India and tea importing countries. Tea Board's overseas offices at London, Moscow and Dubai are making efforts to promote Indian tea in these potential markets.

Tax rebates to exporters

†2031. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal of providing the advantage of both State and Centre tax rebates to exporters;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.